

Substitute Bill No. 6608

January Session, 2001

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:
 - (i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of municipal employees under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section, provided: (1) Participation by each municipal employer shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization represents employees in a municipality, participation in a plan or plans to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by mutual agreement of the municipal employer and the employee organization only and neither party may submit the issue of participation to binding arbitration except by mutual agreement; (3) no group of employees shall be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health care costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its employees under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely affected by this subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans provided under this subsection shall be paid by the participating municipality at no additional cost to the state; and (6) participation in the plan or plans in an amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually agreed by the municipality and the Comptroller. For the

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21 purposes of this subsection, "municipality" means any town, city, 22 borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department 23 of health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force 24 development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission 25 or authority established by special act, regional planning agency, 26 transit district formed under chapter 103a, [or] the Children's Center 27 established by number 571 of the public acts of 1969, or group 28 organized as a nonprofit corporation under 26 USC 501 (c)(3).

Sec. 2. Subsection (m) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(m) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of employees of community action agencies, as defined in subsection (b) of section 17b-885, under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section, provided: (1) Participation by each such agency shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization represents employees in such agency, participation in a plan or plans to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by mutual agreement of the agency and the employee organization only and neither party may submit the issue of participation to binding arbitration except by mutual agreement; (3) no group of employees shall be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health care costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its employees under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely affected by this subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans provided under this subsection shall be paid by the participating agency at no additional cost to the state; and (6) participation in the plan or plans in an amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually agreed upon by the agency and the Comptroller. Not later than February 1, [2001,] 2002, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller shall submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance and real estate a review of the coverage of community action agency employees under the state health plan.

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LAB	Joint Favorable Subst. C/R-LCO	PI)

PD Joint Favorable